



Report on the part of the final state examination Record of the thesis defence

Academic year: 2022/2023

Student's name and surname: Elene Kobakhidze
Student's ID: 12363830

Type of the study programme: Bachelor's
Study programme: Politics, Philosophy and Economics
Study ID: 680227

Title of the thesis: Comparative Analysis of Russian Religious Soft Power in Georgia and Ukraine throughout the Past 15 Years
Thesis department: Department of Russian and East European Studies (23-KRVS)
Language of the thesis: English
Language of defence: English
Advisor: doc. Adrian Brisku, Ph.D.
Reviewer(s): PhDr. Josef Mlejnek, Ph.D.
Date of defence: 20.06.2023 **Venue of defence:** Praha
Attempt: regular

Course of defence: [in person] The student presented the thesis defence according to the following structure: the comparative nature of the thesis, the exercise of soft power in Ukraine and Georgia, the study scope, and the selected qualitative methodology. Then the findings were highlighted regarding the use of religion and the narratives. The primary finding is that since 2014 the influence of the patriarch in Moscow has been diminished. The Ukrainian church didn't play a significant part in identity building in the post-Soviet era. It followed with the presentation of the criticisms of the thesis regarding the heterogeneity in Ukraine, but the student referenced two parts where it was mentioned in the text. Regarding the attitudes from the Non-affiliated orthodox critique, the student sustains this categorisation was not relevant for the research purpose. The student highlights the overfocus in Ukraine from the evaluator, leaving Georgia ignored. However, since it is a comparative study, the scope limits the depth level for both selected countries.
CU Committee: Dr Tesař points to the methodological section and the apparent absence of the dimensions required in a comparative analysis.
The student replies with the chosen dimensions at the institutional level.
CU Committee: Dr Tesař underlines the findings within the Georgian patriarchy, their autocephalous nature, and influence.
The student follows up with the findings in Georgia and historical evidence.
CU Committee: Dr Baxa is interested in how the student concludes with such a solid conclusion.
The student elaborates on the evidence and the
CU Committee: Dr Baxa asks if the student provides any policy

implications in the text.
The student replies there were no policy implications besides highlighting the research findings.
CU Committee: No further questions.

Result of defence:	excellent (A)	
Chair of the board:	Janusz Salamon, Ph.D. (present)
Committee members:	PhDr. Jaromír Baxa, Ph.D. (present)
	Mgr. Jakub Tesař, Ph.D. (present)